A Letter lately written from Rome, by an Italian Gentleman, to a freende of his in Lyons in Fraunce.

Wherein is declared, the state of Rome: The ſuddaine death & ſollemne buriall of Pope Gregory the thirteenth. The election of the newe Pope, and the race of life this newe Pope ranne before hee was aduaunced. Thereto are adioyned the accidentes that haue fallen out, not onely in Rome, but in Naples & other parts of the worlde alſo.

Newely tranſlated out of Italian into English by I. F.

Imprinted at London by Iohn Charlewoode dwelling in Barbican, at the halfe Eagle and the Key.
1585.

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¶ To the Right excellent and Honourable Lord, Henry *Earle of Darby, Lord Stanley, and* Strange: Lord of Man, and Th'Isles,

one of hir Maiesties moſt honorable priuie Counſell, Lord Lieutenant of the Counties of Lancaſter, and Cheſter, and of the Citie of Cheſter, and knight of the noble order of the Garter. I. F. wiſheth all happineſſe.

(·.·)

IF the teſtimonie of a duetiful mind, might prooue a ſufficient counterpeiſe to a benefite, I might now (right Honorable) diſcharge the bande, where with I am ſo deepelie indebted to your honor: But becauſe I am not able with wordes, to match ſo high and honorable deedes, I am contẽted to remaine a debter ſtill. For as the magnificence of *Car-*

thage was ſo great, that ſuch as haue gone about to lift it vp with commendation, were ſuddainly ſtopt and enforſt to confeſſe, they had rather ſay nothing, then ſay too little. So when I conſider the excellencie of your calling, the nobility of your bloode, and the vertues wherin you ſhine, though I be deſirous to giue a taſt of your prayſes vnto the world, yet finding my ſight too weake to ſtare vpon ſuch a ſun, I am cõpelde to turne away my face and giue it ouer. Neuertheleſſe, knowing it to be the parte of a Princely coũſellour, to haue an eye in the head of euery common weale, I haue preſumed to publiſh theſe newes of forraine partes in your honors name, and ſo much the rather, becauſe I finde in your honor the

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diſposition of *Panthoidas*, who being ſent Ambaſſadour into *Aſia*, regarded not their goodly and ſumptuous buildings, the rich ornaments of their houſes, & ſuch other pleaſaunt ſhowes, but rather endeuoured himſelf to learn their policies, their gouernment, their cuſtomes, their Lawes and proceedings, the manner of placing of theyr battayle, the order of theyr fight, with ſuch like enquiries woorthy a Noble man, whoſe notable ſteps your Lordſhip in your honourable laſt Ambaſſage did honourably followe: to the perpetuall eterniſing of your honours auncient and noble name, and the perfect contentation of both their Maieſties.

Thus being lothe to be too tedious, I leaue theſe nouels to your

your honours consideration, vntill time ſhall yeelde better, and better woorthy your honourable viewe. Till when and euer wholy dedicating my ſelfe to your honour, I wyſhe your honour all felicity, and grace. The 29. of Iune 1585.

Your Honors

moſt humble & dutifull to commande.

Iohn Florio.

A Declaration of Newes written from Rome, and from other partes of the world.

IT hath peraduenture (my welbeloued Syr) seemed straunge vnto you, that I haue beene so long without writing vnto you, to informe you of the state of these countries, as you with many praiers intreated me, and with your sundry curtesies and fauours bounde mée to dw, whilest passing that wayes, you entertained me so frendly in your fathers house: and who knoweth, whether you haue conceiued some sinister opinion of me: How be it, I haue no more forgot you in mind then I could or would my owne brother: Which thing if for my mishap it should happen, or haue happened, I beseech you for that deare frendships sake, that alwayes hath beene betweene your house and mine, that you will vtterly cancell, and thinke that my long silence, hath rather beene occasioned of my sundry, and

waighty affaires, then of any other cause whatsoeuer, which vnlooked for, haue so greatly hindred mee since my comming home, that I coulde not discharge that duetie in effect towards you, which the loue I beare you, and your curtesies bindeth mee to. Wherefore I pray you not onely to accept this as a lawfull excuse, but as the bare trueth, which doing, you shall increase my affection towardes you more and more, Knowe you therefore, that howbeit I haue not writtē vnto you, I haue not omitted to note dayly the acccidentes, and all things worthie of memory, that haue happened not onely in this Cittie of Rome,, but also in others abroad, as they haue either bēene written or reported vnto vs, as by this my letter, if your leisure permit you to reade it, you may perceiue, which shall not seeme long vnto you, since that it containeth ẏ sturres happened for the space of two monethes in diuers parts of the world, all thinges of great importance, and worthy to bee read, & noted of you, who do not followe the example of many others, who spend the greater part of their time in reading

of

of that which hath bene done many yeeres agoe, and are altogether ignorant of those thinges which dayly happen in this our age. Know you therefore, that twentie dayes after my departure from you, which was vppon the the sixth day of Aprill last, thankes bee giuen to the Lorde, I arriued safe and sound in thys Citie, where I founde Pope Gregorie the 13, of that name somwhat ill at ease, but so little, that neither he nor any of his frendes made any account of it, but the third night following being ỹ ninth of the foresaid moneth, there discended a rume downe into his breast, with such violence, that in two houres it dispatched him. Whose death, as it was vnto his frendes altogether vnexpected and sodaine, so was it vnto them all most greeuous, but especially vnto his sonnes most domageable, for it is to be presupposed, that if he had perceiued any likelihood of death in himselfe, hee woulde so haue ordered his affaires, ỹ they should not after his death haue bene in those troubles, wherein by reading of this my letter, you shall perceiue them to be. Yet was not his death so greeuous vnto the

greatest number of the Cardinals, vnto whom it seemed that he had possessed the seate too long, and that it was more then time for him to giue place to others, aspiring to that dignitie. I haue spoken of the Popes sonne in the singular number which may peraduenture seeme straunge vnto you, because ỳ hee, besides the Lord Giacomo, whō he had before he was cardinal, by him made Duke of Sora (which Duchie lieth in the kingdome of Naples and he with his money & fauour bought of the King of Spaine) as I am truely informed, he had another in the thirde yeere of his Popedome, by a faire countrie wench, that he kept for his owne toth at Frascato, a place of sollace, not many miles distant from this citie, very pleasant and beautiful, which sonne was called Lorde Philip Buon compagni, which liued not aboue 4. yeere, or there about, of whō if wel you remēber, at my last being w̄ you, I had some cōmunication with your cousin, who said ỳ he was ỳ Popes sonne, & I answered that Lord Giacomo was his father, for so it was reported, and giuen forth at his birth, after which, presently he was caried to

his

his house, who to take that skandall and slaunder from his father, that might haue ensued thereby, was contented to father him, vpõ which thing was made this Pasquil, which not yet thrée weekes since was giuen me by one of his Courtiers, and because the inuention thereof is prétie, & that I knowe you take great pleasure in readyng of such deuises, I haue thought it good to set it downe héere.

The Pasquill.

The maketh of it sayneth, that Pasquine hauing prepared himselfe to flis from Rome, meeteth by chaunce with Marforius, who entring into discourse with him, sayth. *M.* Pasquine whether goest thou in such hast? P. I goe to seeke my fortune, for I will stay no longer heere. *M.* Alas, what doo I heere? and what is the cause that moueth thee to forsake thy deare and naturall countrey? *P.* Because there is no more religion heere. *M.* How may that be? and if there be no Religion heere, where is there any then? P. That knowe not I, but well I wote, that the holy Trinitie is nothing at all accounted of heere.

M. Alas for you, and where is it more manifestly knowen and openly professed then heare? I dare take vpon me to make thee confesse, and say, that in no place elſe ſo much as in this holy Citie. *P.* I pray thee Marforius, doo mee that fauour, as to make mee perceiue that, which if thou dooſt, I promiſe thee I will not forſake my countrey. *M.* I would doo it willingly, but I feare thou wilt but mocke mee, being a thing ſo manifeſt that euery one may ſee it, and feele it. *P.* I will rather thinke my ſelf beholding to thee then mocke thee. wherfore I pray thee proceed. *M.* Is it poſsible that thou dooſt not perceiue in the Popes perſō the repreſentatiō of the eternal father, & in the Lord Giacomo, that of Ieſus Chriſt his ſōne, & in yōng Philip, begotten of the Pope, and fathered vpon L. Giacomo, that of the holy Ghoſt, proceeding both from the father and the ſonne? *P.* Ha, Ha, Ha, by my faith thou ſayeſt true. I muſt needes confeſſe that the Trinitie is not ſo apparently knowen in any other place as it is in Rome, and therefore I will euen get me home againe, and ſtay the euent

of

of the Romaine Trinitie. And thus endeth the Pasquill. But to come to my purpose againe, where I left. I say that commonly the day after ỳ Pope is dead, they are wont to conuey his carkas in a litter alongst Strasteuere, attended on by his wonted Garde of Swizers and light horsemen to the Consistoriall chamber in Saint Peters Pallace, where beyng Pontifically apparelled, al in white garments, euen as if he should celebrate the sacred seruice, he is layd vpon the beare, couered with a cloth of gold, and silke, with letters about it saying, Gregorius 13. Pont. Max. and two Cardinals hats at his feete, and so he is left vntill the euening, at which time the whole Colledge of Cardinales beyng assembled there, with all the Bishops and Prelates that then are in Rome, and with all the Canons of Saint Iohn Laterane, and of S. Peter with their richest Coapes on, hee is carried into the Popes Chappell before the high Altar, where the Bishops, Prelates, and such people as be there do kisse his feete, after which ceremonie he is carried by the Canons of S. Peters, & layd before the Sacrament Chappel, his

Penſioners goyng before with their Polaxes, the head downeward, accompanyed with the Cardinals apparelled in Purple, (which maketh a goodly ſhowe) where beyng layde, the wonted funerall ceremonies vnto the dead carkas, are celebrated by one of the Canons of the ſayde Church, after that he is caried into S. Sixtus his Chappell, where for three dayes ſpace he is left, with his feete towardes the grate, to the end, that thoſe that liſt may kiſſe his feete, he beeing attyred as I haue ſayd before, with many Torches burning day and night about him, with a multitude of Prieſts tending on him, for feare he ſhoulde run away. Three dayes beeing ended, he is buried in the ſayde Church, where it pleaſeth beſt his kinſmen, where nyne dayes after continually, many Torches are burning, for ſo long his funerals do laſt, and therfore they are called Nouendalie, which importeth, in English, nine dayes workes. A very high ſcaffolde in the forme of a Piramides, beyng made in the middeſt of the Church, couered all ouer with blacke cloth, with his armes rounde about, but without the keyes,

with

with letters, saying, Pope Gregorie the 13. which Piramides is vpheld by many pillars, vnder which dooth appeare an Hearce, all couered with cloth of golde, with coushins of the same, where euery morning there is a Masse sung by some Cardinall, created by the last Pope, which Masse being ended, he with foure Cardinals more in black Veluet robes, and the Subdeane hauing sayd the Epistle, taking the crosse in hand, the master of the ceremonies, and other his officers assisting, all the other Cardinals following, they goe about the scaffold, or Piramides. The dead Popes whole houshold sitting about the same vpon fourmes all in mourning apparel, with burning torches in their handes, some bigger then other some, according to the degrees of the men; at each corner of the sayd scaffolde, is placed a stoole couered with black, vpon which the foure Cardinales in black Veluet do sit, and he that hath sung Masse sitting vpon another stole, in the middest of that side that looketh toward the Altar. Then he that sitteth at the right hand, beginneth to giue holy water to the beare lying vnder the

scaffold,

ſcaffolde, and then Frankinſence, and ſo doth hée to all the other Cardinalles, this done he ſayeth a prayer, and ſo do the other foure Cardinals. Then they do go vp into the quier, where ỹ whole Colledge of the Cardinales doth reſort, with burning torches in their handes, a great one ſtanding in the midſt vnkindled. This being ended, they al withdraw thẽſelues into S. Peters Sexerie, where they keepe a congregation for the ſpace of two houres at leaſt. The Ile of the Temple is hanged roundc about with blacke cloth, with vulgar letters ſaying, Gregorius Papa 13. in which Ile are many torches, that burne ſo long as the funerals laſt, which commonly are two houres long euery day, and thus they do nyne mornings one after another, which being ended, the morning following, the Maſſe of the holy Ghoſt is ſung by the Cardinall Deane, after ỹ is ſung Veni creator ſpiritus. and ſo ſinging with the penſioners & other officers, & ſinging mẽ with the reſt of the Cardinals going before, they all go towards the Conclaue. But before I begin to ſpeake of ỹ Conclaue, I will tell you howe that Cardinal that is Lord Chamberlaine hath the

thiefeſt

chiefest place and authority aboue all o-
ther Cardinals, so long as Sede vacante
lasteth. In which time he causeth mony
to be coyned in his own name, and with
his owne armes vpon it, and all things
be executed in his name, and he com-
maundeth all Constables to kéepe good
watch & ward in euery streete of ỹ citie,
for to auoyde all inconueniences which
commonly happen in such tymes, who
arme themselues, and haue authority to
arme as many men as they thinke good
in euery streete and warde. By this
meanes the Citie is defended, and gar-
ded from all motiues that may chaunce.
Besides these, the Conseruours, Sena-
tours or Sherifes of the Citie, do pre-
sently arme two thousand Italian soul-
diers, for to Garde and kéepe the Con-
claue, which is a place in the Popes pa-
lace, appointed for all Cardinals beyng
in Rome at the Popes death, to assem-
ble themselues therein, with all those
that come whylest the funerals last, be-
ing open so long, for many that are a-
broade, come flocking thether so soone as
the Popes death is knowen. It is cal-
led Conclaue, for that it is shut with one

Key

key, and vntill such time as they haue agréed about the Popes election, they be so fast, that they can not by any meanes come out. Many yéeres since it was wont to be but one hall, deuided into so many little chambers, with hangings of Tapistrie, as there were Cardinals, but considering that for want of roome and and ayre, many dyed before the election, there are nowe two great roomes, deuided into more then three score litle chambers, each one of them being more then sixteene foote square, euery one of them hauing a little cabinet, or closet ioyned vnto it, for the Cardinales seruing men to be in, before the Chambers there is a long gallerie for the Cardinals to walke in. No Cardinal can bring in more then three men, that is to say, a Secretarie, a Gentleman, and a Chamberlaine, who so long as the election lasteth can not by any meanes come out. All which chambers are dressed as it followeth. Those which pertaine to the Cardinales created by the last Pope, are hanged with purple, with all furnitures pertayning to it of the same, as Bedsteds, Valences, Curtaines, Couerlets, Pillowes, Cush-

ines,

ines, with like fring of that colour. There is in euery chamber a little table with a Purple Carpet to it, a little wodden lanterne, a little ladder to hang vp the hangings, one high stole, and one lowe, which they carie to the scrutine Chamber, a dust basket, a Chest wyth locke and key, and such other necessaries in a Chamber, euerie thinge couered with purple, with the Cardinals armes vpon them to whom they appertaine. Al other Cardinals haue their chambers, & other implementes hanged, and couered with greene. The order how they are serued in the Conclaue, so long as the election lasteth is this. Before the gate of the Conclaue, there is a fayre rome, where al the Archbishops, and Bishops, that then are in Rome, do stande wayting at the doore by turnes, daie & night or as they are chosen by looue, foure of them alwayes ready to helpe, and do all such necessary busines as the place, and time requireth, what occasion soeuer happen, chaunging euery two houres. Their Chambers being nere the sayde place. About the gallarie of the Pallace going towarde the newe gate, are the

Romane

Romane Barrons, and Lordes attending, with two gardes, one of Italians, the other of Swizers, who are to waite on the Cardinales going into the Conclaue, or that by reason of infirmitie come out, together with the dead Popes light horsemen, and grooms of his stable, who accompany them home to their lodgings. The order howe the Gentlemen or Sewers do serue the Cardinals their Lords is thus. At ỹ gate where as I sayd before foure Bishops do stād, are two Gentlemē, who are to call ỹ Cardinals or Sewers, as they are orderly set down in writing in a scrowle of Paper, ỹ euery night is fastened vpon the gate, wherein are the names of all the Cardinals written as they are drawen by lots, so that a man may see who shall first or last bee serued. Euerie night that scrowle is newly written. In deede if any of them be sick, they are first serued. Euery night there are foure of the sayde byls of names made against the day following: one of which is kept within the Conclaue, another is fastened to the gate where the Senatours or Sherifes sit, as I sayd before, the other two are

kept

kept by the two aforesayde Gentlemen, one of which standeth by the dresser, at that dore at which the Gentlemẽ Sewers goe in with meate, in order as they are called, each one hauing two great baskets or flaskets of diuers stuffes fashions and colours, the one for kitchin biandes, the other for other sortes of after seruice, these carried betweene two men with coulestaues. And this is the manner of their seruice. First euerie Sewer hath very orderly his dishes placed in the foresayd two flaskets, who were first made ready by other officers, as by the Cooke, Paster, Butler, Spicer, Comfeter, Fruterer, and such other that belong to keepyng, or dressing of meates. Before the sayd meates goeth that Cardinals Gentleman Vsher that is first serued, and then two grooms of the stable with two staues in their hãds painted of the Coznutas colour, for so that flasket is called wherin the kitchin meates are caried, after them followeth the Gentleman Steward, with foure or fiue Gentlemen more, carying of fayre glasses in their hands full of diuers sorts of wines, and very cleare water, ỳ Butler

ler going in the middeſt of them, with a little glaſſe of wine in his hand, the ſaid glaſſes are all couered with Orenge blomes, and other ſwéte flowers, with papers on them ſhowing the qualitie, or ſorte of the Wine. then followe two Gromes of the Stable that carrie the baſket, wherein all other ſortes of after meates, Comfets and fruites are, then followeth the Cubberd kæper, with two other Gromes that carie the Cocnuta. All the Gentlemen pertaining to that Cardinal attending on them, thus going al in order towards the Conclaue dreſſer, they méete firſt at the firſt dore the Conſeruours, Senatours, or Sherifs gard, then comming to the ſtayers foote, they méete the other garde of Italians and Swizers. And ſo paſſing along the gallerie, they come into a ſeuerall roome where are two little dores, one to go in to ſerue, the other to come out after they haue ſerued, at the entrie of that roome is alſo a garde of Italians and Swizers, which open and ſhut the dores: where ſtande the two Curſors, or gentlemen with bils of names in their hands, who in order call for the Sewer that muſt

come

come in first, at the vpper end of the said roome standeth a table fiftéene foote long. the Sewer being come to that table, he taketh a very fine and whyte Napkin from the Cubbord kéeper, and layeth it on the table, and another he layeth before the aforesayde foure Bishops, with two knives, and two forkes, which they take vp, the Sewer hauing set all the dishes vpō the table, they vncouer them, and taste of them all, there can no Pies nor Pasties passe whole, nor any kinde of poultery, or fowle, for they are al cut, carued, and opened, before the sayde Bishops. There can no wine, nor water be carried in, in any other vesselles then cléere glasses, nor any table cloth, towel, or Napkin, that is not first vnfolded, opened, & very well considered. All vessels both out of which they eate & drink, of glasse, or porcelaine that once goe in. come no more out, for they are the maister of the Ceremonies his fees. The meate that is left, is deuided among the seruaunts or officers in the Conclaue, as Barbours, Mazons, Carpenters, Poticaries, Swæpers, & such like. So sone as euery Sewer, or Steward hath

serued, he enquireth whether his Lorde will haue any other meate against the next time, or not, then taking Conge, he goeth out of the other dore, whyleſt o-thers come in at the other. And in this order are all Cardinals serued morning and night, so long as the election lasteth. And all that whyle the Castell or Pallace is very well garded, for at the first trench, besides the souldiers that are in Beluedere, and those which garde the market place, which are a great nũber, there are sixe & twentie Swizers wayting day & night, there is a great chaine of yron to crosse the way, and a little house of bordes to shield them from the rayne, Aboue the sayd trench on the left side goyng into the Pallace, are eyght peeces of great Artillerie, garded by a band of Swizers, and two other gardes, that alwayes are attendant there. Not farre from the sayde Artillerie ouer against the great gate, which is also garded by fiftie Swizers, there are three peeces of artillerie more, euen in the entrie of the Pallace, which also is garded by three bandes of Swizers, and for the succour of the sayde gate in any neede,

there

there is at the left hand a place or house couered with bordes, in which is continually a bād of Italian souldiours, with a going out one both sides. On the right hand going into the Court, toward Borgias tower vnder the gate, which is locked with an yron chaine, is continually another band of Italians, and on the left hand therof is an Altar, that may be remoued where one list, couered with very rich Tapestrie, and other ornaments where euery morning all the election while, the Masse of the holy Ghost is celebrated and sung, by the singing men of the Chappell. All that while that the Masse is celebrating, the gates stande open, but very well garded, for then all priests of what order soeuer, & Moncks with the Orders going before very orderly, do go Procession like through all Courtes, and places beneath the watches, and gardes stand ready armed as if they were ready to fight, or expect the enemie. The Priest that sayth the Masse betweene two Deacons with hys face toward the Conclaue, singeth as lowde as hee can the Psalme Veni Creator mundi, and the Letanies, with other

Prayers, the whole quier answering him. This done, the Canons of S. Peter, and other Prelates, with the wonted Pasick goe in. The procession being ended, at the sound of a little bell al men depart, for that is a signe, that the Scrutinie of that morning is done, and that there is no Pope chosen, then all ỹ souldiers do vnarme themselues. These orders & ceremonies are vsed euery day, frō that time that ỹ Cardinals goe into the Conclaue, vntill a Pope bée chosen. The maner how ỹ Cardinals do chuse him in the Conclaue, is as it followeth.

After two maner of wayes the election is made. The one is, that euery Cardinall writeth vpon a scrowle, the name of him whom he wisheth to bee Pope, & after he hath folded it, he carrieth it to the Altar which is in ỹ chamber, where the Scrutinie is made, and there standeth the master of the ceremonies which receiueth the sayd scrowles, & that Cardinall which is founde to haue the most scrowles, of ỹ two thirds of those Cardinals ỹ be there, he is Pope, this manner is called the chosing by scrutiny, because therby the mind of ỹ Cardinals is sifted

and

and knowen. But when in the Conclaue any is founde, that hath none to ſtand with him, then the Cardinals ſtay not to haue their opinions enquired by ſcrutinie, but declare themſelues by their voyces, and then the Lord Chamberlayne, or ſome other of the cheefeſt Cardinals, cauſeth him whō they ſee ſo fauoured by voyces, to ſit vpon the Papall ſeate, ſaying vnto him. Adoro te in pontificem, all other Cardinals following him, ſtriuing who ſhall be formoſt, leaſt by ſtaying, any be thought to bee agrieued. This is called election by Adoration, although that he which is choſen by ſcrutinie be alſo adored, which adoration is rather done for cuſtomes ſake, then for any neceſſitie. Preſently after the election, the newe Popes ſeruantes run to breake two windowes ouer the Court, where the Maſſe or Proceſſion is ſayd, and there the people flocking about thē, they cry Cardinall *Mont-alto* is choſen Pope, afterwardes commeth one of the Cardnals with the croſſe in his hand, and ſayth three times, Papam habemus. After that, all the Cardinalles for a good ſpace abide with ẏ new Pope,

reioycing with him for his election, then they accompany him to his Pallace, after that, euery one retyreth him selfe to his owne home. Furthermore you shall vnderstande Sir, that as soone as it is noysed abroad that the Pope is chosen, all the people run to the Pallace where he dwelt beeing Cardinall, and wholy spoyle and rob the same. In times past they were woont to finde there many things of great value, especially houshold stuffe, but now they that haue but the least hope to bee Pope, cause theyr seruants secretely to conuay thence all the best, leauing nothing but such things as they care not for losing. Now to signifie vnto you the election of this Pope, I say, that in Sede vacante, after the death of Pius the fifte, ỹ King of Spaine writ to Cardinall Farnese, wishing him to stand to be Pope, for that he desyred onely to haue him, who at the first stode in some doubt, thinking that the Kinge did it onely in mockery, but he confirming it by his Ambassadour then resident at Rome, the Cardinall began to perswade himselfe that he meant in good earnest, and endeuoured himselfe earnestly

neſtly to the obtaining thereof, and ſuch were his practizes, that many thought he ſhould be Pope, vntill one morning, the Cardinal Granuela in the Conclaue preſented him with a letter from the King, by which he requeſted him at that time to content himſelfe, and to labour no further for that dignitie, and that for a ſpeciall conſideration, marry withall that hée ſhould aſſure himſelfe the next time not to fayle thereof, at the ſight whereof, the Cardinall was greatly aſtonied, perceiuing that the King went about to delude him, and in thought ſomewhat grieued thereat, anſwered, that he acknowledged himſelfe a ſubiect vnméete to beare ſuch a heauy burthen, howbeit to pleaſure his Maieſtie (whō to pleaſe he had alwayes ſought) he was moued to attempt ſuch an enterpriſe, and now ſith that he ſaw that the Kings pleaſure was ſuch, he ſubmitted himſelf wholy to his wil. Thē Cardinall Granuela thanked him, and requeſted him to agree with him in chooſing the newe Pope, and ſo the next morning Gregorie the 13. of late deceaſſed was choſen. Cardinall Farneſe hauing receiued this

ſcornefull repulſe of the King, although that in ſhowe hee ſeemed to haue forgot it, yet inwardly he deepely imprinted it, and his drift was to vſe ſuch meanes whileſt Gregorie lyued that after his death, of himſelfe without the ayde of the King of Spaine, he might attaine to his purpoſe, and be choſen Pope, which ſecretly he wēt about, yet not ſo couertly, but that many Cardinals had notice thereof, therefore Gregorie beyng dead, and the Cardinales beyng aſſembled in the Conclaue, perceyuing fully Farneſe his intent, they vnderſtoode that if the time were detracted, peraduenture hee woulde haue brought it to paſſe, therefore ſodainely they reſolued themſelues to diſappoynt him and chooſe another. Hereupon Cardinal Eſte, Alexandrino, and Rufticuzzi with their adherentes, ioyning together by way of ſcrutinie elected Cardinall Mont-alto, & ſuch was their good fortune, that they not thinking that any others woulde giue their voyces, to their Cardinall comes Cardinall Medici, with fiue voyces to weigh downe the ballances on their ſide, and ſo vpon Eaſter day they beyng entred into the

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Conclaue, the next morning came Cardinall de Augusta, who entred in, and so did Cardinall Madrucci. On Tuesday at night, and vpõ Wednesday morning following at ten of the clocke, hee was made Pope, & so acknowledged, and adored of all the Colledge. Wherby Cardinal Farnese was two wayes deceiued, the one, in not being himselfe Pope, the other in not hauing any thing to dõ in the election of the new, a thing that happened not vnto him many yéeres before, hee hauing made almost all the Popes since his vncles death, who was Paulus the third, hauing alwaies had many adherents.

Mont-alto being thus chosen Pope on Wednesday in Easter weeke, which was (according to our computation) the 24. of Aprill, and presently after his election, (being before called Felix) he named himself Syxtus Quintus, and forthwith he deprined Cardinal Como of the office of Secretarie, and gaue it to Cardinall Rusticuzzi who had it vnder Pius the 5. and Cardinall Alexandrino had ỹ place, which Cardinall Sant Sisto had in the consultation. The Marques

Altemps was made Gouernour of Borgo, and generall Captaine of both the Popes gardes. The Duke of Sora was confirmed generall of the Church. The L. Marques of Riano had the rome of S. Mario Sforza, who was Lieutenant Generall. The Gouernour of Rome was confirmed anew, likewise the Controuler of the Popes houshold that was first continueth still. Great ioy and triumphes were made at the election of the Pope, but nothing so much as was accustomed, & that because it is thought the people would rather haue had Cardinall Farnese. The Sea was vacant fiftéene dayes without any excesse or disorder. Vppon Thursday last Cardinall Mondoui of Piemont, by Sea arriued heere, not without great daunger both of weather and Pyrates, and at Corneton, great contention arose betwixt his company & the townes men, there were discharged more then an hundred shot of Harquebusses. Contrary to the opinion of all men, the Lorde Paulo Giordano Orsino, Duke of Brasciano, came and kissed the Popes féete, who entertained him very curteously, and with all aduer-

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tised him to loke to the gouernment of his estate, and to the ouerthrowe and rooting out of the banished persons, or outlawes as we terme them: I saye he did it contrary to the expectation of all men, because you shall vnderstand, that the Pope had not many yéeres agoe a Nephew, a young man of comely stature and personage, who viewing on a time a beautifull Damosell of Corambonis de Augubbio, fell so in loue with her, that in short space hée won her and wedded her, but he enioyed her not long for shortly after hee was slaine with a gunne, and it was thought that Lorde Paulo had procured his death, for that not long after hee became very familiar with the Gentlewoman, and meanyng to marrie her, Cardinall Medici, who is brother in law to him, and all his kinsmē of the house of Orsini, laboured to ỹ Pope very earnestly, that he should not suffer their kinsman to match with one of so base fortune, whereupon the Pope at their intreatie sent for him, and first by faire meanes sought to dissuade him from his purpose, but séeing he could do no good thereby he grew to threatnings, saye-

saying, threatning him with excõmunication, but Lord Paulo nothing terrified nor dismayed, sent the Gentlewoman to his house in the countrie, and the Pope as she was going thether, caused her to be apprehended and put into a monasterie of Nunnes, where she remained certaine monthes, notwithstanding, that at the length Lord Paulo found meanes to get her at libertie, and in despight of al men maried her, and yet enioieth her. For this cause it was thought, that hee would not haue submitted himselfe vnto the Pope, and trusted him, and that the Pope being now in that soueraigntie & dignitie, would haue reuenged the death of his Nephew. But see how vaine the iudgements of men are oftentimes, for now there is a mariage intreated of, betwixt the Popes Neece & Lord Paulo his sonne, & it is thought that he shall be general Standard bearer of the Church. The same day Cardinall Sforza had audience of the Pope, and showed himselfe agreeued of the depriuation of Lorde Mario his Vncle, to whom the Pope answered, but smally to his contentatiõ. It is sayd that the last Popes treasurer

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(a man very well seene both in the ciuil and Canon lawes, and one that by finding out diuerse meanes to inriche the Church, hath caused a great sort to cry out of him) is close prisoner in the castle, there to giue account of his administration.

A little while agoe there were taken out of the Castle great summes of mony for the vse of the Sea vacante, which now are resigned againe. The two thousande souldiers appointed for the Garde of ỹ Conclaue are discargeded, againe, euery one hauing giuen him besides his promised wages a crowne.

The Pope hath alreadie bountifully requited a great number, which had shewed or done him any pleasure, when hee was in lowe estate and of small abilitie, amongst ỹ rest he hath enriched a Cobler, who had sometimes mended hys shoes for nothing, who ỹ day following for sodaine ioy, set all his olde shoes, lastes, and toles on fire.

Yesterday morning the Lordes Conseruours, or Sheriffes came to kisse the Popes feete, and desired three fauours of him, that is, aboundance, iustice, & pro-

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uisiõ against outlawes abroad, of whom there is a great number: to whom he answered, that he woulde prouide for them all as speedily as could be.

The Pope sheweth himselfe verie thankfull to Pius the fifth, who made him Cardinal, & therfore hath commanded Cardinall Alexandrino, Nepew to Pius the 5. that he withall the seruaunts and such as belonged to Pius ỳ 5. shoulde come to the Palace, a thing surely very commendable in any man, to be mindful in time of prosperitie of his benefactors.

Yesterday ỳ Marques Altemps toke possession of Borgo, accompanyed by a great troupe of horsemen, and with a garde of Swizers.

The Jesuites cõming to kisse ỳ Popes féete, obained of him, that the sumptuous building of their commenced Colledge should be continued, and that whẽ they want money they shoulde repayre vnto him.

The Lorde Paulo Giordano yesterday went to Brasciano with his wife, and all his Court, Cardinall Sant. Sixtus, Nephew to the Pope that dead is, goeth to dwell in the Pallace of the Duke of

Parma

Parma, it being graunted him by Cardinall Farneſe, who deſiring of the Pope, that his father might come to Rome, which the Pope that is dead his brother woulde neuer yælde, to whom the Pope anſwered, that if he were not baniſhed he might come.

By letters receyued from Milan the 23. of this moneth wæ vnderſtande that the biſſter Reggius, hath commiſſion frō the King to receiue the accounts of Lord Giorgio Mariques, without moleſting of his perſon, which hath happened by the interceſſion of the Empreſſe, and the general muſter is appointed to be ẏ Kalendes of May, & that to all ẏ ſouldiours ſhall be giuen a 100. Frenche Crownes a man beſides the ordinarie pay, but not to thoſe of Don Giorgio his company. It is ſaid alſo that there are taken out of the Caſtle 200000. crownes, to ſend into Flaūders. That from Geneua there was brought thither priſoner a Spanyard, which the laſt yére layde to the Cardi. Borromeo, that he had order from Don Pietro Ant. ſonne to the Duke of Terra Noua, to ſhote him thorowe with a gunne, but being therefore

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set on the racke, he confessed that he sayd so onely to get a piece of money out of his handes.

We vnderstand by letters dated the 20, of this moneth from the Court of the Emperour in Praga, these newes following. On Friday last the Emperour gaue audience, to the Comissaries and Ambassadours of diuerse Princes, as touching the deliuerance of the Duke of Saxonie prisoner at Neustat, but although his enemy seeke by all meanes possible to hinder the sayd deliuerance, yet it is hoped that in the end he shall haue some fauour shewed him. The Ambassador also of Moscouia had audience, who was accompanyed into the Pallace by the high Chamberlayne, and many of the chiefest Courtiers, and presented vnto his Maiestie, a great number of exquisite and fine Armelens, with a furniture of a Gostone. Of the same vncouered of very great value, and brought letters of credite, written in red sarcenet, he came to confirme and renewe the truce and league that alwayes hath bene betwéen his princes father, and the house of Austria wherevpon he had a long discourse

with

committed this cruell fact, to heape villanie vpon villanie, toke the faireſt of the two young Ladies, and in the preſence of all the other rauiſhed her, permitting and commanding his men, to dw the like vnto the other, and to all the Ladies and gentlewomen that attended on them, which done, he cauſed them moſt cruelly to be ſlaine, and ſlong into the ſea. This villanie being heard of abroade, was of all men deteſted, and condemned to be more then barbarous, eſpecially of the Venecians themſelues, who ſought all meanes poſſible to haue him taken, which thing Emmo perceiuing, and being gauled with the guilt of his conſcience, he toke him to his flight, and being come to Puglia, perceiuing himſelfe not to be ſafe there, he licenced two of his Galleys, and with all his bootie amounting to the value of 200. thouſand Crownes in money & Jewels, vpon ỹ thirde which was the beſt and faireſt Galley that was ſéene vppon the ſeas theſe many yéeres, ſayling towards the Ile of Malta, where he purpoſed to yéeld himſelfe, to the great Maſter of the Religion and order, and there to liue vpon

the praye. The Venecians fearing the displeasure of the great Turke, presently sent the Captaine of the Gulfe, who is a Noble Venecia, to pursue him with one of the best Gallies, and if it might be, eyther a liue or dead to take him, and all his complices, whose enterprise, the Lorde God so fauoured, to the ende such villanie should not long go vnpunished, that in few dayes, not farre from Puglia he met with him and without great resistance toke him, and all his men, and carried them to Venice, where ỹ fourth day after being iustly by the lawes condemned, he was publiquely executed and had his head cutte of, and all his goods confiscated, to a kinsman of his that was with him: but in as much as all the souldiers protested that he was nothing culpable, and rather had sought by all meanes and reasons, to diswade him frõ that crueltie, they did nothing but condemne him to perpetuall prison. At the first, when the great Turke heard of this he seemed to be very angry, and demanded to haue (besides an infinit summe of money, Emmo and all the souldiers) and Gallies furnished in his owne handes.

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The Venecians forthwith, sent Ambassadours vnto him with Emmo his head, excusing themselues as well as they could, and that it was a thing they vtterly detested, and were altogether innocent of, offering any reasonable conditions to appease him, but he continuing in his anger, demaunded great and vnreasonable satisfactiõ: but now as we heare by these last letters, he is much altered, and seemes to yeelde to any reasonable conditions, to which he would neuer haue condiscended, were he in any good estate with that mightie enemie of his, the great Persian, with whom these three yeeres space he hath had continuall warre, and hath lost verie much, who euen at this time troubles him greatly, and that is the reason that hee was so soone appeased with the Venecians. So that nowe it were an easie thing for the Christian Princes (if there were any zeale of Christ in them, and that such enuie and malice did not raigne among them) uniting themselues together, vtterly to ouerthrowe him, and free so many thousandes of Christian soules that liue in miserable bondage, which if they

do not but continue still, in seeking to
undo and deuour one another. You shall
see one day those two mightie States, e-
nemies both to the name of Christ, ioyne
together & fall vpon vs, as they did vpon
the Princes of Greece. Pardon me good
sir, if I haue gone from my former dis-
course, for nothing maketh mee speake
but ỹ great desire I haue, that that ene-
mie of Christians, should once be set vp-
on by those that might (if they would) o-
uercome, hauing the euerliuing Lord to
their guide, as they might haue, if they
woulde followe that good Godfrey of
Buloin, that gathered a Christiã power
out of England, Fraunce, Italie, and re-
couered the Holy Land. But nowe re-
turning to it, I say that with the same
letters, we heare that S. Barberico, who
was newly chosen Procurator of S. Mar-
co, which is one of the greatest dignities
in that Signorie, went to the Senate,
accompanyed with three hundreth noble
men, all in their Senatours roabes,
which made a rare and goodly showe,
and to most of them he made a sumptu-
ous banquet. The Prouisor of Firme
Land was come to the citie, his office is

also

also of great credite among them. A noble man of the house of Contarini, euen in ỹ Rialto (which is a place in Venice as the Royall Exchange in London) shot at another Noble man with a Pistol, who being taken, was foorthwith banished the citie, and all the States thereof, on paine of a thousand crownes, and to lose his life if he be taken, and howbeit many sue for hym, yet can no fauour be obtained, vntill ten yeares be expired, and if his father die in ỹ meane time, his goods shalbe confiscated.

The Cardinall Ceneda, was ready to take his iourney from Venice to come hether. The Patriarke of Aquileia was looked for there. The Souldiers were prest before to be sent into Candia to the garisons, they began now to take their pay, and to be sent away vnder diuers Colonels, and Captaines. This is al we heard from thence with the last letters.

From Rome. from the day abouesayd to the 18. of May. Upon Saturday last, there was a publique consistorie held, in which the Cardinals Mondoni, Terranoua, and Gioyeuse, made their first entrie to receiue their Hats, who were ac-

companied by 32. Cardinals, and a great nũber of other Lords, Barrons, & nobles al on horsebacke. The Cardinals, Este, Ramboglietto, Sirletto, & Medici were not there. They were most courteously & honorably receiued, and entertained of the Pope, who gaue them their Hattes, and made them full Cardinales. The Popes when they made any Cardinals that is not present, they vse this ceremonie. First to send them a red Cap where they are, and then the first time after they come to Rome, and enter the consistorie, they giue them the Hat. These three cardinals were made by Gregory, but they had neuer bin at Rome before.

The Cardinall Medici had audience of the Pope, and tolde him that ỹ Duke of Toscana his brother, desired to come and kisse his feete, and do his duetie to his holinesse, but that he desired to haue audience, and to be receiued in ỹ kings Hall, the Pope answered him. that at more leysure he woulde talke of it, and gaue him an answere.

On Munday in ỹ Consistorie, by ỹ resignation of Monsier Fautino, ỹ Church of Coscenza was committed to Abbot Pastorius, the Church of Concordia in

Fruili

Friuli, to a gentleman of Venice, of the house of Quirini: that of Salmona to a Fryer, Chaplaine to the Cardinall of Aragona. Likewise, two Churches in Polonia (named by Cardinall Farnese) were prouided of sufficiẽt Pastors. The same day, and in the sayd Consistorie, the Pope declared as Legates, these Prelates following: Cardinall Saluiati to be sent to Bologna la grassa. Cardinall Colonna to Campagna of Rome. Cardinall Gesualdo to Marca d' Ancona. Cardinall Spinola to Perugia, and Cardinall Canano to Romagna. And the Pope nominated his aboue named nephew, Cardinall *Mont-alto*, gyuing him his owne Hat, his Armes, and hys name, with seuen thousande Crownes reuenues at the first dash. On the Tuesday following, the sealing beeing ended, Cardinall Farnese departed hence to Grotta ferrata, there to solace and recreate himselfe, and it is thought that he is greatly discontented. The day before *Mounsier* Fiesco caryed a hat and a hallowed sword to the Duke of *Sauoy*, and a Rose vnto the Dutchesse, (which is a ceremonie vsed of Popes in honouring of Princes,) for that the Duke and hys

wyfe comming out of Spayne, will lande at Nizza, where ỳ Pope hath sent Lorde Fiesco to receiue them, and present them with his presents: and as some thinke, he shal continue with the Duke as Nuncio. The same day the Duke of Sora renounced his generalship, and the Marques Mario Sforza renounced his office, he beeing Lieutenant. Upon wednesday Signior Boncompagno, brother to Pope Gregory came hether, who for some priuate grudge was not permitted to come during his brothers life. There went to meete him out of the Gates, these men folowing: the Duke of Sora his Nephewe, the Cardinalles San sisto hys sonne, and Vasta villani his Nephewe, with certain others, who conducted him to Cardinall San sisto his house. Whereby it may be seene how variably ỳ wheele of Fortune turneth, for if he had beene permitted to come whilst his brother liued, he should haue beene receiued of the Cardinalles and Lordes of the Courte, and with great triumphe brought into the Pallace. Neither will I forget to tel you the cause, why the Pope his brother would not see him. The cause was this.

Before

Before Gregory caine to ỳ Popedome, he was a very poore Cardinall, and maintained his sonne Lord Giacomo (as well as he coulde) at studie in Padua, who in time of vacation, alwaies repayred to his Uncles house in Bologna, where he was very ill intreated of his Aunte, and by her oftentimes misused in termes & spéeches, as calling him asse, dolt, priests bastarde, with the like, which spéeches (as you knowe) with vs are counted spightfull and intollerable. This poore youth, sometimes gaue his father intelligence thereof by letters, who writte to his Brother, and tolde him that he marvayled (séeing he had the gouernment of his wife) he would suffer it, and threatning him that if he wold not redresse it, he would be so mindfull of him, as hee should repent it. But his brother, who not onely loued but honoured his wyfe, durst neuer let her vnderstande thereof, though secretely to winne his Nephew, he nowe and then bestowed some spending money on him, who alwayes dyd commende him to his father, who presentlie after he was chosen Pope, sent for his sonne Lorde Giacomo, causing hym

most

moſt honourably to be receiued, dayly aduauncing him, as well you knowe.

Signior Bon compagno hearing of his brothers preferment, forthwith addreſſed himſelfe to goe to ſée him, hoping to be ioyfully entertained and honoured of him: but the Pope foreknowing his comming, ſent him ſtraight worde to come no further vppon paine of his diſpleaſure, but to returne home againe, not telling him the cauſe why, knowing that if he liſted he might well conceyue it. Hys brother hearing this meſſage, ſorrowfull and penſiue returned backe, and coulde neuer after haue leaue to come thether, (although Lord Giacomo earneſtly ſued for him.) The Pope immitating heerein, Pope Pius the fourth, who woulde neuer ſuffer his brother the Marques of Marignano, to come in his ſight, neither did he at any time ſhow fauour or frēndſhippe to him or his, how be it, in this point, Pope Gregory differed from him, for hee gaue to his brothers two daughters, eache of thē ten thouſande crownes in mariage, and cauſed them to be nobly and honourably matched, and made one of his ſonnes Cardinall, gyuing hym great

great riches, and the second Gouernour of Rauenna, and vpon him he bestowed a thousande crownes euery moneth, and one of hys sisters sons he made Cardinal Vasta villani. Nowe to returne to the things present, I say that the day folowing, Sig. Bon compagno came to kysse the Popes fæte, who receiued him verye curteously, and some suppose that he shal be established Gouernour of the Citty of Fermo during his life, although the communaltie of that Cittie made sute to the Pope, to graunt them for their gouernor the new Cardinall *Mont-alto*, who answered them, that as yet hee had more neede of a Gouernour himselfe then to gouerne others. *Mounsier* Ahlobrandino is elected Chauncelour, and *Mounsier* Basone shalbe Nuntio in Spayne, and Cardinal San Giorgio in Naples. Mounsier Carlo Conti, Gouernour of Camerino, craueth leaue of the Pope to come hether to Rome, it is sayde he shall haue it, and that in his place hee will sende *Mounsier Mafferti*. At the request of Cardinall Altemps, the Pope hath confirmed the olde Fiscull of Rome in hys office, and hath appointed Lusimbardi

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ouerſeer and Auditor of the Tower of Bologna. We vnderſtand by letters frō Spayne, that the day of the Annunciation in the Church of Saragoſſa, the Duke of Sauoy made the Lords Sig. Giacomo Battiſta of Sauoy, his Ambaſſadour reſident in Spayne: the Marques of Ciambra, & Conte Ottauio ſan vitale Knights of the order of the Annunciation, meaning alſo to beſtowe it vppon the Marques Boba, and Don Michele Bouelli at his returne into Italie, and hath appoynted that the ſeconde ceremonie of enſtaling, be done in Nizza of Brouenza. His maieſty wyll accompany and bring hys daughter, the ſpouſe to Parcelona, who hath vſed much kindnes and frendſhip towards the Duke his ſon in lawe, and with Cardinal Granuella only, his other daughter ſhall be maried to ỹ Archduke Erneſto, brother to the Emperour.

There is a mariage talked of betwixt one of the Popes Neeces, and Sig. Iulianus, ſonne to Signior Giorgio Ceſarmi, and betwixt hys other Neece & Sig. Pietro Gaetano, ſonne to Sig. Honoraeo, but whether they ſhall come to paſſe or no, it is vncertaine. Mon. Nazaret

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shalbe Legate in Fraunce to seeke to moderate and mittigate those hurly-burlies. and therefore the Pope hath sent for him hither. The Bishop of Camerino (in his voiage to Polonia, going thether as Nuntio) is deade. The Archbyshop of Naples is come hether. Newes is brought vs, that in the Mountaines of Safso ferrato, a ringleader of Outlawes called Morte, with 22. of his adherents, is besieged by two thousand mē & more, whereupon we hope that he shall not escape. Cadinall Vercelli on thursday morning, being taken with a certaine feuer, departed this life in lesse then 4. houres, and by his death there fell an Abbye of fiue thousand crownes a yeere, which the Pope hath already bestowed on Cardinall Mont-alto hys Nephewe. Wee heare that in Naples by reason of ẏ great dearth that is in that Citie, the people appointed one to deale with ẏ Viceroy, that so many people might not die for hunger, who went and did cleane contrarie: for when certaine ships laden with corne were in the Hauen, he caused them to be sent to Spayne, saying that in Naples there was Corne sufficient, which

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thing when the people hearde of, they forthwith in a great rage and fury ran to the Gentlemans house, where they mette with certaine Fryers, who hearing the cause of theyr tumult, desyred them to be contented, that they might goe to his house to confesse him, and perswade him to die patiently, and then to kill him, to which the people agreed, but afterwardes, perceiuing that ỹ Fryers sought to saue him, and to make him flie, they rushed into his house, and before the Fryers faces killed him, and trayled him a long throughout the Cittie before the Viceroy, crying all with a lowde voice. God saue the king and iustice. Wherupon, the Viceroy being at his wits ende, withdrewe himselfe into his Castel, and caused hys Garde to giue diligent attendaunce, and not sturre in any wise.

There is come hither another Nephew of ỹ Popes, who hath bẽn twentie yeeres absent from Italie, his profession is to handle his weapon well, it is thought that he hath bẽne a good one in his daies, that he hath played many prettie parts, notwithstanding we thinke he shall be generall of ỹ Church. We heare

that

that he hath another come from Piacenza, so that now he wanteth not kinsmen being in prosperitie, and more are comming dayly from strange countries, although whilest he liued cardinal, it was not knowen that he had any, but ỹ husband of Corambona. They write from Genoua, how the foure Gallies of Tuscane, who had chased two Turkish Gallies, euen to Marsilia, were come to the hauen of Genoua, where they shall take in the Duke of Niuers, which goeth to ỹ bathes of Luca. We heare also that they of Genoua had chosen two Ambassadors to send to Nizza, to congratulate with the Duke and Dutchesse of Sauoy, and to morow to send hither, to render their obedience to the Pope. By letters from Praga, we heare that the Ambassadour of Muscouia, was resolued to sée the ceremonie of the golden Fléece, & being inuited to a banquet by the Ambassadour of Venice, he drũke so much that almost he was choked therewith. The Vice-chamberlaine began to mend of his sickenes, and Lorde Traulen was sore troubled with ỹ Goute, whereupon his life was greatly doubted, being a man of 76.

yeere

yéeres of age. Yesterday the Emperour dispached a Poste to Rome, whether the Ambassadour of Tuscane meaning to send another, he was not permitted, for that his Maiestie woulde haue his man arriue two dayes before the Dukes. This Nuncio is greatly discomforted by ỳ death of Pope Gregorie, fearing least he shoulde be depriued of his office, especially forthat he hath béene at great expences. By letters from Venice, dated the 12. of May, wee heare that newes were come from Constantinople, that ỳ busines of the restitution of the Gallie, to the great honour of the Ambassadour, and satisfaction of the signorie, was concluded and ended, and that there was no talke of any army, which is a manifest signe of peace with the Christians, and therefore hée hath confirmed the league with the King of Spaine for other two yéeres. The Turke is so busied in the warres of Persia, and against the Persians to his great disaduantage, hauing receiued another notable ouerthrowe of them, and besides betwirt the Turkes & Transiluanes, there is like to be something adoo, for ỳ some notable skirmish

had

had béene betweéne them already. The prince Valacco placed in his estate with the fauour of the Turke, was againe displaced of the people, and ỳ other that was put downe set vp. Cardi. Ceneda of whom before I made mention, is returned to the cure of his Church, and at the end of August wil come hither to Rome. From Genoua tis sayde that in Sauoia, there is great adoo to intertaine sumptuously the neiwe spouses, and there bee chosen besides the foure Ambassadours, foure Patrons, which speake Spanish to receiue the Duchesse. There hath bin a Proclamation against certayne vnknowẽ persons, which robbed a ship in ỹ hauen with all the munition that there is prouided. Yet neuertheless there be many robberies committed. Doctor Ameranta hath bin stayed by ỹ inquisition to the great admiration of euery one, he beyng of great credite in the Citie. It is knowen by letters come to the Hebrews, ỹ the Tartarians are conioyned with the Moscouites and other Potentates to set vpon the great Turke. And this my louing friend, is asmuch as at this time, I can showe you of the neiwes we haue in Rome, the which if you well consider,

you shall finde that there is not at thys day, any Court in the worlde, in whych fortune sheweth more then in thys her power, sith that you see that many which within these two monethes, sat in the highest part of her turning whéele, are now thrown downe to ỹ lowest of them was ỹ only talke while theyr prosperity lasted, towards them onely were ỹ eyes of all men bent, & now there is no more account made of them then of any other, and within a short while their memory will faile so, as if they had neuer béene. Contrariwise, those of whome no man talked, and which were accounted as the offscouring of the base, be now the chéefe, and they onely are in the monthes of men. And to the end, that you may perceiue these things better with the eye of your vnderstanding, I will heere set downe before you, as conclusion of thys my letter, the whole life of this present Pope, ỹ whych I had of a learned Doctor of Lawe, Sometime a familiar frend of ỹ Popes, who sware & protested vnto me, that 8. yéeres agoe, when hee was Cardinall, hee voluntarily tolde it hym himselfe, without any request thereof, & said, he was not ashamed that any man

should

should know it, and take great delyght in telling it. And this it is. Mont-alto is a little village in *Marca d'Ancona* hid in an vnpleasant valley, at the side of the mount Appennine, and because the countrey is so obscure, I can not describe it better, saue that it is a little village at the roote of ỹ mountaines, there distant from the noble citie of *Ascoli*, ten miles. In that place was this present Pope borne after this sort. There dwelt a little fellow named Pietro, who for his lyttle stature and smal personage, was called Peretto, which is asmuch to say, as little Peter, & also little Peare. His birth & stocke was so base, & his liuing so slender, that vpon ỹ hils of Fermo to maintaine himselfe, he was glad to keepe the swine of one Sig. Horatio Brancadoro, & being one day in the field loking to his swine, there sodainly arose such a mightie storme and tempest, that leauing hys swine to the broade fielde, at fortunes discretion, he betoke himselfe to hys cabyn a lyttle of to his wife (who was of no greater Parentage then himselfe) & lying with her that night, hee got her with child, who in due time was deliuered of a iollie boy, who nursed him her

selfe as long as her milke lasted. Which boy comming to the age of three yeeres, the father not being able to keepe him, he gaue him and recommended him to the Baker of the towne, who was a very poore man himselfe, for there were no more then fowre or fiue houses in the village, to whome he did bake, who for Gods sake tooke him, and so the poore childe lyued a great whyle by that slender almes, and crommes of breade, or peeces that the poore women which came thether to bake, would now and then giue him. His attyre was a long time of a course shyrt ragged and torne, his bed was an Ashheape which was raked out of the Ouen, whereon he was enforced to lye, least he should die for colde, and this poore life led he, till he was almost 8. yeeres olde, at which time there came thether by chaunce a gentlewoma of Ascoli, of the house of Malespini (who hath at this day two sonnes liuing, men of great fame and credite, the one called Sig. Piccione, the other Sig. Nicolo Malespini) who being moued to pitie at the miserie of the childe, tooke him thence, & hauing caused him to be well washed and cleansed, caused him to be apparelled in

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the habite of S. Frauncis, and committed him to the custodie of a poore Vicar of that Chappell, who had no learning, but could onely read and say Masse, and because the childe had no other name but Cenaiuolo, that is to say in English, a Lyer vpon the ashes, the gentlewoman called him Fælix, as prophesying that which should come after, in short space he toke to surname his fathers name, & so was called Felice Peretto. There then he learned of his master to reade, and to be able to helpe him to say Masse, in so much, as in ỹ end he grew to be knowen of a quicke wit, so as if he were well brought vp, he might become a profitable member of his countrey, wherupon, his Maister so commended him to the Prior of the Friers of his order in the Citie of Ascoli, that he woulde néedes haue him, and there he began to attayne to some learning, wherein in little time hée profited so exceedingly, that amongst the disputers, he was counted one of the chiefe, afterwards he had the degrée of a Preacher, neither was he inferior therein to the best, and therfore he was made inquisitor, and was called *Monsi.* Felice Peretto, and béeyng enforced to vse

some deuise, for a seale to subscribe the sentences which hée gaue, hauing first sealed his letters with a piece of money, he deuised and tooke vppon him a Lyon Iacent, holding vp in one of his pawes a braunche of a Peare tree, alluding to his name, thus, Beyng inquisitor, hee was sent by the Generall to Venice, there to vse and learne to practise the inquisition, and because he too too seuerely behaued himselfe, he was on a tyme by certaine gentlemen buffeted and dry beaten. By which his mishap, sprung al his benefite and preferment, for Pius Quintus (who loued such seuere felowes as he had béene himselfe, hearing this, to spyte the Gentlemen that had beaten him, called him to Rome, and within a while after made him Cardinall: calling him Cardinall Mont-alco, because hee was borne there, giuing him sen thousande crownes reuenewes, and a hundreth Crownes a moneth for almes, as commonly Popes giue to poore Cardinals, after which time, he wholly gaue himselfe to ỹ attaining of good learning, and studie of humanitie: & in short time he became a very profound Philosopher, and is at this day one of the best disputers

ters that is at Rome. And howbeit it was so highly and so sodainely exalted, yet did he not degenerate from his first originall, for you should haue seene hym héere in Rome, goe in a filthy great, and greasie Hat, al besmeared, and his hands foule and dyrtie. Yet is he very politike and patient, which was well perceyued in him not long agoe, when his Nephew (of whom I haue before made mention) was slayne, he neuer gaue showe of anger or alteration, which made all the cytie to wonder at him. He is a man who will not easily be led, and gouerned of others, which maketh me to thinke, that he will not suffer himselfe to be robbed by others, and as the common Phrase is to be drawen by the nose, wherein I pray God he still continue, for wee are long agoe weary, and haue had too many Popes which haue béene thralles, and subiectes to ỹ Spaniards. It was greatly wished, that Cardinall Farnese, had béene Pope, who wyth hys worthy Progeny and noble minde, myght haue comforted and animated this people, and the misery of all Italie, for to speake indifferently, wee bee all abased and kept vnder, whych commeth to passe be the

policy

policie of the Spanyardes, who seeke all to haue one that is by base byrth and bringing vp, elected Pope. This man is of stature rather lowe then tall, but of a good complexion, leane and dry, vsed to endure labour, wherefore I thinke, that (if hée bee not ouercome with such delicate and dayntie meates as his degrée requireth) hee will lyue many yeares. Héere nowe I cease from further troubling you, assuring you that hereafter I will vse more diligence, if so bee that I shall vnderstand that these are acceptable vnto you, and so I end, desiring God to shield you from all euill. From Rome the last of May. 1585.

FINIS.